

To: Frater, Eric M (Hanoi)[FraterEM@state.gov]
Cc: Teichman, Kevin[Teichman.Kevin@epa.gov]
From: Fong, Vance
Sent: Wed 3/30/2011 6:05:10 PM
Subject: RE: bioremediation funds

Eric,

Thanks for your offer to help. EPA trainers at a recent Taiwan EPA Bioremediation training informed me that the Office 33 attendees voiced their support for a stronger role for EPA on Bioremediation in VN.

I will be forwarding 2 emails, one from Koos and the other from Mick to you. The emails reflect their thoughts on the next steps.

Thanks,

Vance

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This message was sent by:

Vance S. Fong, P.E., Manager  
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San Francisco, CA 94105  
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Email: Fong.Vance@EPA.Gov

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From: "Frater, Eric M (Hanoi)" <FraterEM@state.gov>
To: Vance Fong/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Kevin Teichman/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/29/2011 10:06 PM
Subject: RE: bioremediation funds

Thanks, Vance. That is helpful. How have your discussions with UNDP gone? I have a good relationship with Mick Saito, so please let me know if you need any assistance on this end.

Eric

Eric Frater
Environment, Science, Technology & Health Officer U.S. Embassy, Hanoi,
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-----Original Message-----

From: Fong.Vance@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Fong.Vance@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 10:53 AM
To: Frater, Eric M (Hanoi)
Cc: Teichman.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Re: bioremediation funds

Eric,

I spoke to Stephanie Curs who works with Randy Kluever about 2 months ago per Charles' introduction. In fact the ideas in last few sentences in Randy's first paragraph below came from me. They thought that the vast majority of the sprayed areas can not be productive crop land because of AO/dioxin contamination. I corrected their logic. AO/dioxin fated in the majority if not in all of the sprayed areas. The lands remained nonproductive may be due to the eroded surface soil. The soil type (sandy) coupled with the nutrients being leached out due to frequent heavy rains rendered the poor soil condition. My sense is a comprehensive approach to recondition the soil including planting special kinds of plants and the application of sludges from anaerobic biogas digesters may improve soil condition.

I read the sentence in their email carefully. I don't think they are informed or are talking about the little travel fund EPA has left for a couple more visits to VN to work with Koos. I think they might be asking about a much larger pot. I know they are planning to meet with USAID in May.

Hope this helps.

Vance

bioremediation funds

Frater, Eric M (Hanoi)
to:
Vance Fong

03/28/2011 11:31 PM

Hi Vance,

FYI, Texas A&M is hoping to work with Vietnam National University on

restoration of dioxin-contaminated land and degraded agricultural land, in an effort to build a partnership between the two universities. One thing they mention below is the possibility of accessing the remaining bioremediation funds to support the effort. Is this possible? Is it something EPA would be interested in pursuing?

Eric

Eric Frater

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Email: fraterem@state.gov

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Kluver, Randy [mailto:rkluver@ipomail.tamu.edu]

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 11:23 PM

To: Frater, Eric M (Hanoi)

Cc: Curs, Stephanie A; Kleinkort, Kelly

Subject: RE: meeting with Eric Frater

Thanks so much, Eric, for your email! I am glad I found the right person!

We have been approached by Professor Duong Van Hop, Director of the Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology at VNU, who several months ago sent us the attached proposal. Professor Duong has asked us to consider developing a joint/collaborative research program regarding ecosystem restoration and bioremediation, so we have been talking with a number of the specialists from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M. The College has a number of relevant strengths in its departments and labs, including the pesticide fate research lab, the soil and microbiotic Lab, agricultural engineering, the department of ecosystem science and management, and the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture. As you can see from the enclosed document, they have asked us to partner with them to do extensive ecosystem analysis and to test a variety of mechanisms by which the agricultural land, in particular, can be restored. We have had some initial talks with Charles Bailey of the Ford Foundation, and we understand that the agent orange problem is fairly localized, but that there is extensive ecosystem degradation through poor agricultural practices, erosion, and the like.

At Texas A&M, we would hope to use a program like this to build a multidimensional relationship with VNU, possibly developing joint educational programs, research activities, and so on. For example, we would like to partner with VNU to send PhD and Masters students to A&M, where they could get their academic training, but also contribute to this joint research activity. We have a joint PhD program with Ocean University of China in oceanography, and we think that this could lead to another partnership like that.

We have developed a core group of faculty, including the dept heads and lab directors, who have all agreed to be part of this partnership with

VNU, provided they can make a positive scientific contribution and we can find sufficient funding to support the collaboration. We have already begun to develop some funding support for an initial scientific trip later this summer, so that we can build some of the key relationships and get a better scope of what our colleagues at VNU have in mind.

That is a brief summary of our goals. As I mentioned, Dr. Martyn Gunn, Vice Provost of Texas A&M, and myself will be in Hanoi talking with VNU on May 16-17. Dr. Gunn, as Vice Provost, is in charge of all of our international activities, and I am the lead administrator on our projects in Asia. Our plan is to come to some agreement about our collaboration with VNU during this trip, and then to send a small group of our scientists this summer to kick off the collaboration.

I had hoped that perhaps on Tuesday, May 17, you might be able to meet with us, review the scope of the problems as you see them, and provide some advice as to how we might proceed. Of course, we are aware that the US Government has set aside some money for the issue of agent orange bioremediation, and we would like to explore as to whether some of that funding might be accessible to help us build this partnership.

In looking for your contact, I also noticed that you all held a conference last year on US/Vietnam Educational partnerships, and I am very sorry we missed that. We would also like to meet up with anybody in the embassy who is working with those educational partnerships as well, since that is our primary interest with VNU.

Thanks so much,

Randy

Randy Kluver, Ph.D.
Executive Director, International Initiatives Liaison for Asia and the
Pacific Associate Professor, Department of Communication Texas A&M
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Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Frater, Eric M (Hanoi) [mailto:FraterEM@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:03 AM
To: Kluver, Randy
Subject: FW: meeting with Eric Frater

Dear Dr. Kluver,

Thank you for your email. As you clearly know, I cover environmental issues, including issues related to Agent Orange, at Embassy Hanoi. When in May do you plan to be in Hanoi? I'm sure we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

If possible, I'd greatly appreciate your providing a bit of information about your collaboration with VNU. How did your relationship come about? What types of activities do you plan to do together? How do you envision the U.S. government assisting your project?

Best regards,

Eric

Eric Frater
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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Hanoi ACS
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 9:36 AM
To: Frater, Eric M (Hanoi)
Subject: FW: meeting with Eric Frater

FYA. Someone asking for you in our ACS mailbox.

Jeap

From: Kluver, Randy **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 5:09 AM
To: Hanoi ACS
Cc: Curs, Stephanie A
Subject: meeting with Eric Frater

Hello, a delegation from Texas A&M will be visiting Hanoi National University in mid may, as we have been asked by HNU to build research and educational collaborations related to ecosystem restoration and soil remediation. We would like to meet up with Eric Frater or other relevant personnel at the embassy while we are there to see if there are resources that we might be able to tap into to build this research and educational collaboration.

Can someone help me to make contact with Mr. Frater?
Thanks so much....

Randy Kluver, Ph.D.
Executive Director, International Initiatives Liaison for Asia and the Pacific Associate Professor, Department of Communication Texas A&M University

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[attachment "Proposal title.doc" deleted by Vance Fong/R9/USEPA/US]